



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GOVERNOR RELEASES EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR BORDER COUNTIES
Action part of ongoing effort with state of Sonora, Mexico to combat crime

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today declared a state of emergency in four counties along the Arizona–Mexico international border. The declaration will release funds to combat the growing devastation caused by the crimes associated with illegal immigration.

Governor Napolitano has earmarked \$1.5 million through the Governor's Emergency Fund, initially designating \$200,000 as allowed by law. The Governor's request for the remaining \$1.3 million has been approved by the state Emergency Council, and will be used to help fight criminal activity along the border.

"The federal government has failed to secure our border, and the health and safety of all Arizonans is threatened daily by violent gangs, coyotes and other dangerous criminals," said Governor Napolitano. "These funds provide our law enforcement community with another valuable tool to fight crime related to illegal immigration."

Today's declaration is a part of the Governor's ongoing efforts to fight crimes such as violent human trafficking, which is directly related to illegal crossings at the international border. Governor Napolitano has worked closely with Sonora, Mexico Governor Eduardo Bours and the two reached an agreement in June to share resources and high-level intelligence information to fight crime along the border. Governor Bours will also make an announcement regarding border security later this week.

Money activated by the declaration will go to state agencies and political subdivisions within the border counties of Cochise, Pima, Santa Cruz and Yuma.

While it is not the state's responsibility to assume any part of the federal government's role at the border, Governor Napolitano says she plans to continue a dialogue with local law enforcement and the federal government on detecting and preventing criminal behavior associated with violent human smuggling and drug trafficking.

"Anyone who lives at the border can attest to the fact that what they face is devastating," the Governor said. "I intend to take every action feasible to stem the tide of criminal behavior on the Arizona side of the border."

The declaration is attached as a .pdf document.